

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06240 112141Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-01 SY-04 NIC-01 AID-05 DRC-01 /083 W

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P R 112107Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 671

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 6240

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, IT, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: MIR LEADER TAKES ASYLUM IN ITALIAN EMBASSY

REF: SANTIAGO 6108 AND 6221 (NOTAL)

1. GOC ISSUED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OCT 10 THAT EDUARDO HUMBERTO SOTOMAYOR SALAS (AKA TITO), HIS WIFE MARIA LUZ GARCIA FERRADA, AND TWO MINOR CHILDREN HAD TAKEN POLITICAL ASYLUM IN ITALIAN EMBASSY OCT 6. SOTOMAYOR WAS IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF POLITICAL COMMISSION OF MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) AND HEIR-APPARENT TO NUMBER ONE LEADERSHIP POST IN MIR AS RESULT OF DEATH OF MIGUEL ENRIQUEZ IN OCT 5 SHOOTOUT WITH GOC SECURITY FORCES (REFTELS). ANNOUNCEMENT CLAIMED SOTOMAYOR RECEIVED BULLET WOUND IN LEG DURING BRIEF EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE OCT 4 AND THAT HE WAS ONE OF OCCUPANTS OF HOUSE IN SAN MIGUEL SECTION OF SANTIAGO ALONG WITH ENRIQUEZ AND CARMEN CASTILLO. ANNOUNCEMENT POINTEDLY NOTED THAT MIR LEADERS HAD PUBLICLY CLAIMED THEY WOULD NOT SEEK ASYLUM IN FOREIGN EMBASSIES IF GOING GOT ROUGH.

2. PRESS REPORTS REMAIN CONFUSED CONCERNING WHEREABOUTS OF IMPORTANT MIR LEADER ANDRES PASCAL ALLENDE AND CARMEN CASTILLO'S BROTHER, CRISTIAN.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 06240 112141Z

3. SECURITY FORCES ARE UNOFFICIALLY TELLING PRESS TO EXPECT

"IMMINENTLY" IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MIR CASE AND
EARLIER MIR BANK ROBBERY.

4. COMMENT. ONE RADIO REPORTS THAT ITALIAN CHARGE DENIED
SOTOMAYOR HAD BEEN GIVEN ASYLUM. SOTOMAYOR IS NOW SENIOR
LEADER STILL IN CHILE OF MIR, WHICH IS MAIN EXTREMIST
ORGANIZATION STILL FUNCTIONING. HIS PRESENCE IN ITALIAN
EMBASSY RESIDENCE WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE CHILEAN-ITALIAN
RELATIONS.
POPPER

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